

## King Edward VIII - The Accession Issue.

A decision was made early on in the postage stamp production process that there would not be any invitation to artists to submit designs, instead, the G.P.O Drawing Office was asked to produce a number of designs in consultation with the printers. The G.P.O plans were ambitious and involved an 'Accession issue', and a 'Coronation' issue, followed by a 'Permanent' issue. As the stamps were to be printed using the photogravure method, photographs of the King in profile were taken by Hugh Cecil and forwarded to the printers for use on the stamp designs.

In the event, none of the designs were liked by the King who wanted to break with tradition and keep things simple. His preference was for a design submitted by Harrisons based on an unsolicited design by a seventeen year old philatelist, Hubert John Brown.



Original pencil sketch submitted by H J Brown,  
and essay (prepared by Harrisons) submitted to the King on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1936.

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The King's abdication on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1936 brought the ambitious postage stamp project to an abrupt end, so all we now have as a reminder of the era are the four stamps forming the 'Accession' issue. The date set for the Coronation of King Edward VIII, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1937, was retained for the Coronation of his brother, 'Bertie', who became King George VI.

**Printing details** - Printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, High Wycombe, in sheets of 240 stamps, arranged in 20 rows of twelve stamps.

**Issued date** - The first three stamps issued were the 1/2d, 1 1/2d, and 2 1/2d on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1936, closely followed by the 1d on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1936.



Total number of different dies (DD) known on the issue is 3,291 - DDF is 7,157.

In 1936 there would have been around 5,762 G.B. Perfin dies still in commercial use, 57% of which can be found on this issue. However, in view of the large quantities involved, no list of Perfin dies has been included. There are 292 Perfin Dies (8.9%) known on *all four denominations*.

Perfin figures correct to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.